

(a) The recipient shall repay the State Scholarship Board the funds expended plus simple interest that is equal to the prime rate plus 2 percent calculated from the date of the first payment of the tuition assistance award for any portion of the award not forgiven if the recipient does not:

(1) Complete the teacher education or certification program; and

(2) Teach in a field of critical shortage in a public school in this State for a period, SUBJECT TO THE PROVISIONS OF § 18-1406(C), of 1 1/2 years for each year that the tuition assistance was awarded.

(b) (1) The State Scholarship Board shall forgive the repayment of the tuition assistance award at the rate, SUBJECT TO THE PROVISIONS OF § 18-1406(C), of 1 year for each year and one-half that the recipient teaches in this State.

18-1405.

(c) Deletion of any ACADEMIC FIELD [program] as an area of critical shortage shall not:

(1) TERMINATE [terminate] the right of existing recipients to renew awards under § 18-1403(e); OR

(2) IF THE RECIPIENT CONTINUES TO TEACH IN A PUBLIC SCHOOL IN THIS STATE IN THAT ACADEMIC FIELD, INVOKE THE PROVISIONS OF § 18-1404(A) OR DISQUALIFY THE RECIPIENT UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF § 18-1404(B).

18-1406.

(A) "AREA OF EXTRAORDINARY SHORTAGE" MEANS A GEOGRAPHIC AREA OF THE STATE IDENTIFIED BY THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION AS LESS ABLE THAN OTHERS IN THE STATE TO SATISFY THE NEED FOR PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHERS IN AN ACADEMIC FIELD IDENTIFIED FOR AT LEAST 3 YEARS AS AN AREA OF CRITICAL SHORTAGE.

(B) THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION SHALL IDENTIFY AREAS OF EXTRAORDINARY SHORTAGE BY A PROCEDURE SUBSTANTIALLY SIMILAR TO THAT SET FORTH IN § 18-1405 OF THIS SUBTITLE.

(C) THE REPAYMENT OF THE TUITION ASSISTANCE AWARD OF A RECIPIENT WHO IS NOT YET REQUIRED BY THE PROVISIONS OF § 18-1404 TO BEGIN REPAYMENT OF THE AWARD AND WHO ACCEPTS EMPLOYMENT AS A PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHER IN AN AREA IDENTIFIED AS AN AREA OF EXTRAORDINARY SHORTAGE IN THE RECIPIENT'S ACADEMIC FIELD, WHETHER OR NOT THE AREA REMAINS SO IDENTIFIED, SHALL BE FORGIVEN, FOR THE PURPOSES OF § 18-1404, AT THE RATE OF 1 YEAR FOR EACH YEAR THAT THE RECIPIENT TEACHES IN THAT FIELD IN THAT AREA.

(D) THE STATE SCHOLARSHIP BOARD MAY PROMULGATE REGULATIONS TO IMPLEMENT THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SECTION.